

Serial No10/611,926

Amendments to the Drawings:

The nine attached Replacement Sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 163, 240, 246, 247, 257, 258, 259, 260 and 261.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Correction of Record as to Priority Documents

It is first noted that, in the Notice of Allowability of the application, the Examiner notes receipt of certified copies of the priority documents for the application in Application No. 09/796,534.

However, it is believed that the certified copies were, in fact, submitted in at least one of the following chain of earlier prior Applications: Serial No. 08/281,337 filed July 27, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,473,584, which is a Continuation-In-Part of Application Serial No. 08/184,117 filed January 21, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,526,328, which is a Continuation-In-Part of Application Serial No. 08/009,709 filed January 27, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,682,360.

Indeed, it is noted that Patent 5,473,584 identifies foreign priority based on each of the 15 priority documents for the present application as identified in the Claim of Priority filed July 3, 2003.

Moreover, Patent 5,526,328 similarly identifies foreign priority based on 13 of the same priority documents, omitting only JP 6-104879 and JP 6-156089.

Still further, Patent 5,682,360 similarly identifies foreign priority based on 7 of the priority documents for the present application and the '328 patent, omitting only JP 5-8596, JP 5-92219, JP 5-107423, JP 5-205682, JP 5-297504, and JP 5-314114.

It is therefore submitted that the patent publications of the USPTO appear to support a conclusion that seven of the priority documents were filed in prior application Serial No. 08/009,709, that six more of the priority documents were filed in prior application Serial No. 08/184,117, and that two of the priority documents were filed in prior application Serial No. 08/281,337, rather than in the application identified in the Notice of Allowability.

Clarification and correction of the Notice of Allowability is therefore respectfully requested.

2. Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

While applicant does not disagree with patentability of the material noted in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowability, applicant respectfully submits that allowance was predicated on patentability of the subject matter set forth in each of the allowed claims.

3. Drawing Amendment

Upon further review of the drawings, a number of typographical errors have been noted in addition to those corrected by the Amendment filed July 3, 2003. Accordingly, applicant provides herewith appropriately labeled Replacement Sheets, implementing a number of changes as set forth in the following Table of Corrections.

CORRECTED FIGURE	BLOCK NUMBER	CORRECTION
163	491w	replace "VIRTUAL" by --VIRTUAL--
240	471b and 471d	in 471b add a --Yes-- label to an output of the decision block in 471d change "ke" to --key--
246	"Processing in CD plant"	at bottom right, replace "yeras" by --years--
247	471b	add a --Yes-- label to an output of the decision block
257	line from block 32d to block 537	replace "ket" by --key--
258	" (ditto)	" (ditto)
259	" (ditto)	" (ditto)
260	" (ditto)	" (ditto)
261	" (ditto)	" (ditto)

TABLE OF CORRECTIONS

Serial No10/611,926

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(d), it is submitted that the foregoing Table of Corrections provides the required explanation of drawing changes "in detail, in either the drawing amendment or remarks section of the amendment paper."

Accordingly, substitution of the accompanying Replacement Sheets for the originally filed drawings is in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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